



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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OFFICIAL ORGAN ALLIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA. ENDORSED BY Hamilton District Trades and Labor Council.

Business Office: 248 SPARKS STREET, OTTAWA. Phone Queen 3992. Editorial Office: JOURNAL BLDG., OTTAWA. Toronto Office: 106-7-10 PETERBURN BUILDING. Montreal Office: ROOM 16, MECHANIC'S-INST. BUILDING.

Entered at Ottawa Post Office as Second Class Postage.

The Canadian Labor Press

Published Weekly by the Canadian Labor Press, Limited. Business Office: 248 SPARKS STREET, OTTAWA. Phone Queen 3992. Editorial Office: JOURNAL BLDG., OTTAWA. Toronto Office: 106-7-10 PETERBURN BUILDING. Montreal Office: ROOM 16, MECHANIC'S-INST. BUILDING.

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

MAKING FOR PEACE.

INDUSTRIAL council is the promise of the Manitoba Legislature, to come into being at an early date. Under this act it will be made illegal to have strikes or lockouts before the case in dispute has been referred to the council for investigation and review.

Almost without exception in one section or another of the constitutions of the International trade organizations, will be found provision made for the utilization of the power of arbitration, after the initiatory step of negotiation has failed.

With such a constitutional law almost impregnable to attack, written by organized Labor itself, legislative enactment cannot be otherwise than welcomed, as any movement contrary would be diametrically opposed to Labor's own views.

Industrial councils of this Dominion even in their limited utilization have been a means of eliminating the necessity of drastic action. Success has been largely writ in their work, so that extended use means a greater good will be accomplished.

Manitoba has been taught its lesson and is no longer delaying in seeking to apply a remedy against the germ which arrays the workers against the employers.

With Winnipeg for all time will be associated the strike of 1919, and the good is coming out of that evil, in the decision to make for investigation before strife.

According to President Tom Moore, one essential lacking in this Dominion is a Hyde Park, to be utilized in the same way our overseas brothers expounded. Any person acquainted with circus time at this famous park can recall that although we are told there is a limit to all things, this resort seems to be the exception to the rule through the extensive range of subjects propounded.

The Congress president states that the reactionary forces of the workers' movement are allowed full scope to the end of "talking off their heads" with the blather and bile treated by the hearers from a comedy viewpoint. It does appear that the non-progressive especially in the trade union movement in this Dominion have entirely lost their heads some time ago, but the tongue remains intact.

If, however, this old-land cure can be made efficacious in a return to reason of the anti-unionists, purveyors of wrecking machinery, let us all say: "Give us a Hyde Park," with a hope that lost heads carry with it the power of fanatical speech.

AGENTS WANTED

We want a local representative in every town and city in Canada to take yearly subscriptions for the Canadian Labor Press. An excellent spare time proposition with unlimited possibilities. For full particulars address Canadian Labor Press, Agency Division, Room 110 128 Raw Street, Toronto, Ont.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Calm.

A LIVING WAGE FOR WOMEN.

Editor Canadian Labor Press.—The silence of the women's organizations regarding the Minimum Wage Bill for female workers, to be brought forward during the present session of the Ontario House, is proof that women up to now fail to realize the plight of their less fortunate sisters. It is not strange that it is left for men to urge a living wage for women.

True, some skeptics will see in the zeal of the unions regarding this reform only a desire to protect male workers from their incursions into the labor market. Women are at present the chief supply of cheap help. By accepting small wages they tend to crowd men out altogether—a consummation Society is to be avoided if the home is to continue.

If a woman in her extremity accepts a wage too meagre to enable her to live in reasonable comfort, so much the worse for the community. She must ultimately be a burden on the taxpayer's pocketbook. Industries which do not afford a living wage are rightly branded "parasitical." The underpaid worker is the immediate sufferer, but we are all concerned in the result.

Granted that much of the work done nowadays is so simple that a child can do it now, does that mend matters? Children ought to be in school. Women cannot live on the pittance which might be offered to a child. Moreover, the very fact that the work, because it is so mechanical, dwarfs the worker, makes recreation or interests out of hours all the more necessary. These she cannot have, because she must employ her spare time in doing laundry, or even in cooking her own pitiful meals.

This army of underpaid and underfed women is a menace to the state. They are the potential danger, for it is that the teeming women, who know the price of motherhood under favorable conditions, do not try to see that others may have at least a fair physical chance? What will become of the race if these ill-nourished girls are to mother it? What shall it profit a nation if it gains the whole world and lose the health of its children?

How can women help to secure a living wage for women? When the teachers decided to agitate for higher salaries they petitioned every organization, large or small, to endorse their claims. They visited their services to the community, and held huge meetings. Such a campaign is not feasible for women engaged in general. No union embraces them all. We must, therefore, speak for them. Public opinion must be created that will compel employers to pay a living wage. They are the patronesses only those known to pay the minimum wage. The passion for bargains must yield to a passion for justice to the workers. We must insist that every employer who has not yet discovered that his business is everybody's business.

Living wage rests on an unwavering ethical standard. Unrestricted bargaining is found wanting. A Government board should establish a rate. Women can then enforce their verdict.

GRACE H. HUNTER, 262 Temple Building, Toronto.

"W.A.A.C.'S" QUIT THEIR JOBS.

After a somewhat cursory consideration of Canadian farm life and household science, eight of the sixteen W.A.A.C.'s who were sent to the Macdonald Institute at Guelph have returned to Toronto. The party presented itself to the Government Employment Bureau and were given clerical, industrial and domestic openings as suited the taste and ability in each case.

Briefly, the cause of the general evacuation was a misunderstanding in the agreement which the girls made before leaving England. They were to receive tuition with a certain amount of service, and, of course, a specified amount of freedom. The hours of tuition and the leisure hour were slightly when put into practice, and having learned to stand on their rights, no self-respecting W.A.A.C. felt she could do the pre-arranged schedule. So the eight domineering, meddling apparitions came to Toronto.

A certain amount of loneliness and craving for the excitement of the city would appear to be minor factors with the feeling of dissatisfaction. The girls are undoubtedly glad to be back in town. They are staying at the Patriotic League Hostel for the present.

SHOULD GIRLS BE TOLD?

"Whatever may be thought of the father and mother," said Bishop Weldon, in the course of an interview, says the Durham correspondent of the Daily Herald, "there can be no doubt that the illegitimate child can claim pity from Christian hearts. It is only too true that since the parents are visible to the children. That is a law of science, as much as of religion, but it is difficult to see the justice of setting a permanent stigma upon the child for a fault which cannot have been its own."

WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

Conditions in industrial plants during the war which necessitated the employment of women and girls in large numbers to offset the great shortage of labor, have, according to industrial engineers, been of great benefit to the country at large by

demonstrating not only the ability of women workers, but also the fact that their employment is not attended by hardship to themselves or to the industry as a whole. Exhaustive tests are said to have proved that the average woman is far quicker to adjust herself to conditions and more exacting in her demands than the majority of men laborers and mechanics.

GARMENT WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has inaugurated a system of unit centres in various sections of New York city that are operated without cost to the members of this organization. Meetings are held in the public schools. The studies include the teaching of English, the labor movement and trade unionism, literature, art, music, educational films, health lectures, gymnastics and social recreation.

A large amount of literature explaining the purposes of these pamphlet centres has been issued. One of these centres has been given your only school. It has given you a limited and narrow education. You need a union shop in the school as well as in the factory.

The union also maintains a workers' university in a public school. The courses include: Labor and management; trade unionism; present tendencies in literature; economics of the industrial system; psychology; public speaking; correction of speech defects; English grammar and written composition; American history and American civics; modern European history; current events and reconstruction problems; elementary science; the co-operative movement.

Teachers for these classes are recognized authorities, and well-known physicians lecture on health.

CRITICS OF MUSIC.

Two ladies were visiting Westminster Abbey, says Sir Frederick Bridge, the famous organist at the Abbey, when one of them suddenly gazed her hand. "Hush, hush!" she said. "There's the organ! Isn't it splendid? I always love to hear Sir Frederick play." "Beautiful, dear," replied the other. "For a moment I thought it was Sir Walter Parratt, but, of course, he can't play like that. One can usually distinguish them by their touch."

As a matter of fact, it was the vacuum cleaner busting away in preparation for the coronation. Sir Frederick tells another story of a musical party at which an automatic piano was in use. "I could not make out the music at all," he says. "It sounded very abrupt, and I felt that I was not educated up to it, although sometimes I seemed to recognize it. I whispered to one of the ladies and inquired what it was. 'Bach's fugue in D minor,' she said. 'Afterwards I had been put into the piano upside down and the fugue was being played backward.'"

The union label insures stability in business because the principles it stands for are sound, enduring and unchangeable.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

FARM LABORERS GET WAGE INCREASES.

The British Agricultural Wages Board having confirmed its wage increase proposals, the new scale went into effect on Monday. The general result of the new order is that, in areas where the ordinary minimum rate has been from 28s. 6d. up to 32s., the minimum will now be 42s. and in areas where the minimum rate has started at 22s. it will be increased by 1s.

In each case proportionate increases are also made in overtime rates. These will go some way towards remedying the underpaid condition of farm workers throughout the country, and it is hoped that it will prevent the influx of these workers to the cities.

MINERS VOTE TO ACCEPT GOVERNMENT OFFER.

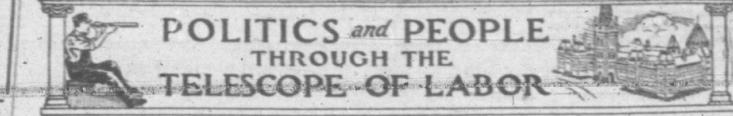
The members of the Miners' Federation, by a majority of 65,135 votes, has decided to accept the Government's offer of a 20 per cent. increase on gross earnings. The decision of the men obviates the danger of a strike. The Government's offer provides for a minimum flat advance of two shillings for all workers over 18 years of age, one shilling for workers between 14 and 15 years, and ninepence for workers under 14 years.

POSTAL WORKERS WANT WAGES OF PRE-WAR VALUE.

The London post office workers are agitating for support for their claim for the restoration of their wages to the pre-war value, with additional 12s. per week for adult workers and 5s. for those under 15 years of age. They held a big demonstration of all sections of the London postal staffs in the Albert Hall on Sunday night to protest against the delay in the negotiations. A. Bailey, of the London District Council of Postal Workers, presided, and a resolution was proposed supporting the action of the executive in demanding the above increases and expressing dissatisfaction with the delay which has occurred since the claim was submitted in December last.

MORE GAINS FOR LABOR.

Further gains at the local council and guardians elections are reported. Results recorded recently and the North gave a return of 125 Labor representatives on 36 Urban Councils and Boards of Guardians. Southall—Three Labor candidates returned out of four who ran. Labor polled 2,392 votes to 2,125 cast for the seven opposition candidates. North Fleet—Two seats gained for Labor. Exwell—Four seats gained for Labor. Uxbridge—Three Labor men returned in four contests. Labor has



By J. A. R. H.

Donald Sutherland, M.P., for South Oxford, in the House of Commons, last week, made some startling criticisms on civil servants. Among other things he said that people are prepared to "break their necks" to get into the Civil Service, and after getting in they spend much time in complaining.

He had no sympathy with the Civil Service Commission and its work. "I believe, there should be a minimum by the thousand in the Civil Service, and that efficiency should be the test," he said, adding that he expected conditions under the Civil Service Commission will be "much more rotten in the future than in the past."

He strongly condemned associations of civil servants "taking the Government by the throat" in demanding higher salaries. He got away with this "bunk," too. But his remarks are not passing without comment. The honorable gentleman is not unlike thousands of others of our "gallant" politicians. He is either completely out of touch with the great masses or ignoring entirely the human side of labor. Providing the Civil Service today is ever supplied with labor would firing them by the thousands relieve matters? What about the poor workers? Has the honorable gentleman ever felt the anxiety of unemployment, with which goes an empty stomach, proper warmth, and clothing? Possibly not. Does he think for a moment that Labor in

now for the first time a majority on the council. Hayes—At a byelection Labor secured a seat. This makes the council entirely Labor. Eastleigh—Four contests without any Labor success. Retiring Labor men returned unopposed. Blithley—Three Labor gains. Council now has five Labor representatives. Briton Ferry—Labor secured three out of four seats on the District Council, with the result that Labor has now a clear majority. The candidates were Messrs. Hutchinson, Field and Southcott.

Worcester—Labor won three seats on Worcester Board of Guardians, the successful candidates being J. E. Lawson, J. Mizen, and A. G. Tooth. The last named was returned unopposed. Glyncorrwg—Labor made a clean sweep in the three wards of the Glyncorrwg Council. (Glamorgan-shire.) James Burford, a miner, defeating his employer's son (J. R. Gibb) in the Cymer Ward. The results give a clear Labor majority on the new council. There were 27 Labor and 9 ex-Servicemen in the South Wales District Council elections.

Canada today stands for inefficiency? Let him ask any employer of union labor what he thinks of his employees. Organized Labor stands for efficiency, the higher the standard the better for both the employee and the employer. Canada is away behind Great Britain in the relation between the civil servants and the Government. In Great Britain the joint industrial councils for instance has been established in various departments of the Government. The recommendations brought in by these councils as to working conditions, hours of work and wages are recognized and carried out. Has the honorable gentleman from South Oxford ever studied conditions under which the workers in the Civil Service toil? Possibly the politician of the old school wants us to return to the days of political patronage when their vote would be regarded for the party who secured for them the jobs. No, Canadians do not want the clock turned back but rather we want the highest efficiency for the party who secured for such service civil servants, together with all other classes of workers, only seek but demand and yet, "take the government by the neck" in an honest effort to secure a living wage decent working conditions and hours and the best protection that it is possible to secure by legislation.

In this connection the following is the desire of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. "Personally, I think a strike would be a foolish and suicidal policy; the easier and the simplest way is to bring about nationalization by political efforts. The working classes in all parts of the country have tremendous political power in their hands, and if they have got the power to bring it about through parliamentary effort."

THE OFFICE BOY OF TODAY. London Daily News: The blasé, bored attitude of our errand boys in the busy, bewildering whirl of the modern Baghdad was well illustrated in a Strand traffic block. A youth riding a box-carrier cycle was hemmed in on every side with buses, taxi-cabs, motor-cars, etc. Drivers were quarrelling and shouting; the point policemen were struggling to sort things out—the errand boy pulled a novel of the Deadwood Dick type from his pocket, spread it on top of the carrier, and buried himself in the pages, first catching hold of a motor trolley chain in front, so that he might be made aware when the block moved.

PROGRESS OF BRITISH GENERAL WORKERS

Favor Political Efforts to Effect Nationalization of Mines.

In his report as general secretary of the National Union of General Workers, W. Thorne, M.P., in the first number of the General Workers' Journal, referring to the progress of the union writes: "On January 1, 1919, we had a membership of 255,534 and about 1,000 branches, representing at least 300 different sections of workers employed in various trades and callings. At the end of December, 1919, we had a membership of about 420,000 and about 1,200 branches."

Discussing the future policy of the union Mr. Thorne says: "The question our members will have to decide is as to whether they are in favor of a strike to force the hands of the Government to nationalize the coal mines in accordance with

An Open Letter re Fuel Situation

To Readers of The Canadian Labor Press:

The Oakal Co. (Canada) Limited, whom we represent, are in receipt of a letter from the Fuel Administrator for Ontario, reading in part as follows:

"The assumed shortage of anthracite coal during the coming season, consequent to abnormal demand, increased difficulties in mining and transportation, and accentuated by high prices, will undoubtedly force a large number of consumers in Ontario to depend upon substitutes for their requirements.

"Recognizing the important part your industry must take in stabilization, also in eliminating to the greatest degree possible seasonal difficulties, I would urge you to put forth every effort in the speeding up of your output, so that every ton possible may be available to meet the demand.

"In this period of unrest, the greatest possible co-operation is essential, and I will depend on the results of your efforts to assist me in successfully averting sufferings attending a coal shortage."

The plant will be producing in July or August, a fuel superior to anthracite coal—a fact attested by Government analyses as well as by hundreds of demonstrations given in this City, Ottawa and Montreal. Appreciating the seriousness of the situation, and the fact that the first plant will be producing approximately 200 tons per day, at an assured profit of \$1.00 per ton, which means a return of 30 per cent. to you on an investment, we ask every reader of this paper to invest say one or two hundred dollars in The Oakal Co. (Canada) Limited, to insure this increased production.

No other industry in Canada deserves such co-operation, and no other industrial that we know of will pay more steady and certain dividends. Co-operation is essential, as the Fuel Administrator says, and while co-operating to insure against fuel famines you are insuring yourself big returns on your money—which will multiply in value.

Shares are five dollars each, preferred and common. We advise you to secure at least ten of each before the price doubles, as it is certain to do.

Yours truly,

H. J. Birkett & Co.

Address, 502 C. P. R. Bldg., Toronto.